<u>REMARKS</u>

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected all of the claims. Claims 1-27 have been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application directed to these claims. Claims 28-32 have been amended.

The Examiner objected to the Specification "because it references copending application numbers." Applicants have amended page 1 ¶ 1 to include the appropriate publication number, filing date and title, and page 15 ¶ 3 to include the appropriate publication number. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the Specification.

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0023333 ("Birkle et al."). Applicants have cancelled claims 1-27 without prejudice and reserve the right to file a continuing application directed to these claims. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejections to claims 1-27 have been obviated and thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection to claims 1-27.

The Examiner did not find Applicants' arguments submitted on October 15, 2007 in response to the Non-Final Office Action persuasive. Thus, the Examiner maintained the rejections of claims 28-32. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejections and seek favorable reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Claims 28-29 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Birkle et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,058,973 ("Sultan"). The Examiner asserts that Birkle et al. fail to teach Network Address Translation as claimed in dependent claim 28. However, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art "to create the method of Birkle to include network address translation as taught by Sultan in order to pass information across the internet in a secure manner." The Examiner also asserts that Birkle et al. fails to teach ignoring requests as claimed in dependent claim 29. However, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious "to create the method of Birkle to include network address translation as taught by Sultan in order to pass information across the internet in a secure manner." The Examiner further asserts that Birkle et al. fails to teach ignoring requests as claimed in dependent claim 31. However, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious "to create the method of Birkle to include network address translation as taught by Sultan in order to pass information across the internet in a secure manner."

Applicants respectfully submit that even if Sutlan were combined with Birkle et al., the combination would not render claims 28-29 and 31 obvious. Amended independent claim 28 claims *inter alia* a "method for providing an equipment area network (EAN) for each one or more pieces of equipment...wherein for each local piece of equipment the method comprises the steps of...connecting a local router between said Web server and a computer network...[and] configuring said router to receive requests from Web browsers both local and remote to said EAN..." Birkle et al. teach that "[b]ridges and rooters, with which the entire data network (16) can be segmented..., may be integrated *in the data network* (16)." ¶0025. Fig. 3 of Birkle et al. illustrates that the data network 16 is external and not local to the intelligent application component 3. Thus, Birkle et al. fail to teach "connecting a *local* router between said Web server and a computer network..." as claimed in amended independent claim 28. Accordingly, even if Sultan were combined with Birkle et al., the combination would not achieve the invention as claimed in claims 28-29 and 31 and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection to dependent claims 28-29 and 31.
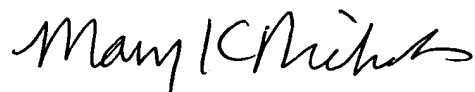
In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, page 2 ¶¶ 0022-0023 fail to teach "configuring said router to receive requests from Web browsers both local and remote to said EAN" as claimed in independent claim 28. Indeed, the cited text fails to teach "a local router between the Web server and a computer network" as claimed in amended independent claim 23 from which claim 28 depends. Accordingly, for this further reason, Applicants reaffirm their assertion that dependent claim 28 is not rendered obvious by Birkle et al. either alone or in combination with Sultan.

Claims 30 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Birkle et al. in view of Sultan and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,805,442 ("Crater et al."). The Examiner asserts that Birkle et al. fails to teach passwords as claimed in dependent claim 30. However, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious "to create the method of Birkle to include passwords as taught by Crater in order to approximately control client's access to data." The Examiner further asserts that Birkle et al. fails to teach passwords as claimed in dependent claim 32. However, the Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious "to create the method of Birkle to include passwords as taught by Crater in order to appropriately control client's access to data."

Applicants respectfully reaffirm their assertions that dependent claims 30 and 32 are not rendered obvious by Birkle et al. either alone or in combination with Sultan or Crater et al. As discussed above with respect to dependent claims 28-29 and 31, Birkle et al. and Sultan fail to teach "connecting a *local* router between said [local] Web server and a computer network" as claimed in amended independent claims 28 from which claims 30 and 32 depend. (emphasis added). Crater et al. fail to supplement the teachings of Birkle et al. and Sultan and similarly fail to teach "connecting a local router between said [local] Web server and a computer network" and "wherein said EAN is dedicated to said equipment" as claimed in amended independent claim 23 from which claims 30 and 32 depend. Thus, assuming *arguendo*, even if Birkle et al. were combined with Sultan and Crater et al. the combination would not achieve the invention as claimed in dependent claims 30 and 32. Applicants respectfully submit that neither Birkle et al., Sultan nor Crater et al. teach or even suggest a method for providing an EAN as claimed in amended independent claim 23 from which claims 30 and 32 depend. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections to dependent claims 30 and 32.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-32 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Birkle et al., Sultan or Crater et al., either alone or in combination. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections to these claims and that the application be promptly passed to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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